



Biography and Abstract

Ken Whelan, Vice President, Atlantic Salmon Trust

Des avancées majeures dans l'identification des schémas de migration et de distribution du saumon atlantique en mer

Some Major Advances in Identifying Migration and Distribution Patterns of Atlantic Salmon at Sea

Biography

Ken Whelan

Ken Whelan worked for several fisheries research organisations in Ireland and was an Executive Director in the Irish Marine Institute from 1999 to 2009. He served as President of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) from 2004 to 2008. As President, he helped to initiate and manage the ground-breaking SALSEA or Salmon at Sea Programme. He was Chairman of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board from 2007 to 2011 and served as Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Loire Basin Salmon Restoration Programme. Ken was formerly (2009 to 2023) Research Director with the Atlantic Salmon Trust and is currently a Vice President of AST. He is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin. Ken runs his own fisheries and environmental consultancy (<http://www.kenwhelan.info/>).

Abstract

Some Major Advances in Identifying Migration and Distribution Patterns of Atlantic Salmon

Ken Whelan, Atlantic Salmon Trust

The SALSEA Programme (2008 to 2011) comprised the first major attempt to map the migration and distribution patterns of salmon post smolts across the northeast Atlantic. It revealed a potential migration route for southern European post-smolts along the shelf edge. More recent work has identified the Vøring Plateau, off the northwest coast of Norway, as an important post smolt feeding area and evidence is emerging for the existence of a so called *smolt highway*, stretching from the west coast of Portugal / Spain, along the west coasts of Ireland and Scotland, heading northeast to the post smolt feeding area around the Vøring plateau. Increasing demand for ocean energy has offered opportunities along the coasts of Ireland and the UK to track, in finer detail, the movement of post-smolts in estuaries and out from the coast towards the putative smolt highway. With the news that Iceland has re-joined NASCO, focus has turned to assessing migration pathways in the Irminger Sea and around the coast of east Greenland, building on the groundbreaking work of the Atlantic Federation and partners along the coast of West Greenland, since 2017.